

RESEARCH BITE #14

DATE: May 20, 2016

RE: Western Diversification Program

The Western Diversification Program (WDP) is one of the programs through which Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) makes strategic investments in initiatives that enhance and strengthen the economy of Western Canada.

Applications received under the WDP-CFP process must directly support one (or more) of the following WD Strategic Priorities: 1. Innovation; 2. Skills Development and Training; 3. Trade and Investment; 4. Building Capacity for Defence Procurement Opportunities; and, 5. Economic Growth Acceleration Opportunities for Aboriginal Peoples (First Nations, Inuit and Métis).

Strong projects will demonstrate:

- A clear alignment to one or more of WD's priorities (listed above);
- Strong market/industry demand (e.g., the project addresses a significant gap in the market, there is a demonstrated industry demand for the project or there is demonstrated labour/skills shortages);
- Clear, measurable economic outcomes for Western Canada;
- Effective governance measures and management team in place to carry out the project;
- A strong rationale for the project;
- Financial statements that demonstrate the organization is financially self-sustaining;
- Leveraged funding from provincial governments, the private sector, and other non-government sources (typically 50 percent or more); and
- Non-WD funding is confirmed. Funding will only be considered confirmed with proof of confirmed funding.

For more information, please see their website:

<http://www.wd-deo.gc.ca/eng/301.asp>



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